FRACAS by military personnel in trains

†*109. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there has been an increase in the incidents of military personnel quarrelling with common passengers in trains;

(b) the number of such incidents which came to the notice of Government during the last three years;

(c) the reasons for increase in such incidents; and

(d) the steps being taken to prevent such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) There have been four, seven and eleven incidents of alleged misbehaviour by military personnel travelling in trains in the years 2004, 2005 and 2006 (up to October) respectively.

The main reasons for such incidents are:—

(a) lack of confirmed reservations for military personnel.

(b) forced entry, overcrowding and misbehaviour by unauthorized persons in coaches earmarked for military personnel.

(c) non attachment of earmarked military compartment.

(d) inadequate defence departmental quota.

Each and evey incident brought to the notice of the military authorities is investigated expeditiously and exemplary punishment awarded to those found guilty. The following steps have been taken to prevent such incidents:—

(i) Educating troops to plan their movement on leave/temporary duty well in advance.

(ii) Optimum utilization of defence departmental quota and military compartments for ensuring travel on reserved berths.

(iii) Educating troops on Do's and Don'ts during rail travel to maintain proper discipline.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(iv) Projection of additional defence departmental quota and military compartments and restoration of those discontinued, to the Ministry of Railways.

(v) Regular monitoring of defence personnel in transit by Military Police.

Influx of Nepalese Muslims into Uttaranchal

†*110. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards influx Nepalese nationals, belonging to the Muslim community, from bordering areas of Nepal to Pithoragarh and other districts of Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total number of such Nepalese Muslim families identified so far; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to check the influx?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) There are no reports of any influx of Nepalese Muslims into Uttaranchal.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) India - Nepal Border is open Border. There are no restrictions on entry of citizens of either country. However, adequate number of border-guarding forces have been deployed and a number of border outposts in the State along the India-Nepal Border have been established to prevent any undesirable cross-over.

Constant vigil/patrolling on the border continues. Close liaison is also kept with the State Government. Appropriate Intelligence network is in place.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.